

## Virginia Naturally Annual Report for Calendar Year 2007

**Business Plan Actions:** To increase the number of new partner organizations; communicate with partners; develop regional networks; create online directory of partner resources; increase stewardship by 10%; and promote professional development opportunities, grant funding and new EE resources.

### Reporting period: Jan. 1- Dec. 31, 2007

- **138** organizations signed up as **new partners** during this calendar year.
- **Twelve** electronic newsletters sent out to partner base of over 800 organizations and 1500 educators.
- New online searchable **800 + partner database** updated and launched.
- Training provided to **586** community educators (formal and non-formal) at **12** professional development and/or training workshops; participated in **59** meetings; coordination, public information and resources provided to **3,809** people at **28** outreach events by VaN Coordinator. **5** new educational resources created and implemented across the state.
- **50** partners attended **partner meeting** at NAAEE Conference, Doubletree Hotel, Virginia Beach, VA to receive state updates.
- In 2007, nearly **200** Virginia educators attended the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) annual conference "Explore New Horizons for Environmental Education" held November 14-17, 2007 in Virginia Beach, VA.
- **Thirteen** regional groups/teams/alliances for environmental organizations are underway. Hampton Roads is functioning as HRAEE with 175 organizations; Greater Richmond is functioning as GREEN with 45 organizations; Southwest VA is functioning as SWEET with 40 organizations; Alleghany Highlands Environmental Council has 16 organizations and Greater Shenandoah Valley EE Network has 55 organizations with every school division also represented. The Central VA EE Alliance (27+ organizations) has met twice; West Center VA (Roanoke) has met twice; Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Association has formed to serve its residents. Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula Partnering Project (34 organizations); Eastern Shore EE Council (20 organizations); Charlottesville Metropolitan area (33 organizations); Upper Rappahannock EE Network (5 county-wide organizations and local governments involved); New River Highland Educational Alliance (25 organizations) are in the planning stages of group development.
- **34** VaNaturally partner organizations received **state, national and local awards** such as Environmental Excellence, Keep Virginia Beautiful Awards, Keep America Beautiful, VRA, Conservation Awards and Virginia Naturally.
- Two rounds of Virginia **Classroom Grants** were awarded to **116** schools **\$81,850** grant funds. First round of MWEE Minigrants for Partners were awarded to **23** community organizations which received **\$32,600**.
- **41** schools earned recognition as a Virginia Naturally School for their efforts during the 2006 -2007 school year.
- 2,500 **Love-A-Tree** kits developed and are being distributed. The 2007 theme was: *Land Conservation*.
- **Stewardship VA** reported **5,621** volunteers received certificates for **167** projects registered during Spring Campaign and **3,718** volunteers received certificates for **111** projects registered during the Fall Campaign.
- **EE Mural Project** can be viewed at General Assembly Building, 5<sup>th</sup> floor.